<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 6, 2005. Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 26 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 11, 12, 17 and 26, the independent claims, and dependent Claims 3, 5 and 6, have been amended to define still more clearly more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 7-17 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,639,593 (Yhann), and Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Yhann* in view of U.S. Patent 6,275,303 (Fukaya).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus that comprises generation means for generating a bitmap image on the basis of inputted object data. Also provided are hold means, for holding attribute information representing attributes of the inputted object data in units of pixels of the bitmap image. According to Claim 1, this attribute information is formed by allocating plural bits to each pixel of the bitmap image, and each of the plural bits indicates a different type of attribute. The apparatus also comprises conversion means for converting the bitmap image into data capable of being processed by an image output unit, and switch means for switching the contents of processing for each pixel of the bitmap image in the conversion means on the basis of a combination of the plural bits of the attribute information held by the hold means corresponding to that pixel.

Among other notable features of the apparatus of Claim 1, therefore, is the means for holding attribute information which is formed by allocating plural bits to each pixel of the bitmap image, with the plural bits each indicating a different type of attribute.

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An example of an arrangement having this feature is described at page 36, line 22, to page 37, line 11.[1] Another such feature of the apparatus fo Claim 1 is the means for switching contents of processing for each pixel of the bitmap image on the basis of a combination of those plural bits of the attribute information (see page 38, line 20, to page 39, line 15, for a description of an example). By virtue of these features, it is possible to provide finer (that is, more highly-detailed or more multi-faceted) attribute information for each pixel by means of a combination of a plurality of bits, each containing information about a different attribute (see page 39, lines 16 and 17).

Yhann relates to a process and apparatus which receive a bitmap object and find boundary pixels therein. According to *Yhann*, a bitmap object is explored to identify edges or boundaries of the object, and data representing contributing edges are stored in step S218 of Fig. 2B. However, even if *Yhann* stores data representing such edges for each boundary pixel, and even if that data comprises a plurality of bits, Applicants do not see how that data (the plural bits) could be deemed to relate to plural kinds of attributes, as recited in Claim 1; rather, the data appears to relate only to one kind of attribute (contributing edges). Applicants submit that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Yhann* that would teach or suggest the attribute information of the apparatus of Claim 1, which is formed by allocating plural bits to each pixel of the bitmap image and where each of the plural bits indicates a different type of attribute respectively. *A fortiori*, Applicants submit that nothing in *Yhann* could teach or suggest the means for holding such attribute data, much less the recited switching means, which switch the contents of processing for

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[1] It is to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of this or any other embodiment that may be referred to.

each pixel of the bitmap image on the basis of a combination of such plural bits of attribute information.

For these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Yhann*.

Each of the other independent claims is believed to be allowable over that patent for at least the reasons presented above with regard to Claim 1.
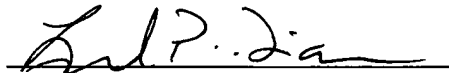
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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